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first battle of the war. At the time of his death he was the agent of the Old Dominion Steamship Co.—a position the duties of which he had faithfully performed for a number of years.

REV. EDWARD D. NEILL, D. D., was born in Philadelphia, August 9th, 1823, and was a member of a family which has produced several men of distinction in letters and military life. He became a student at Amherst College, from which institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He afterwards studied theology at Andover and Philadelphia, and then entered the Presbyterian Ministry, securing his first charge in St. Paul, Minnesota, which he filled from 1849 to 1860. He was Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Chancellor of the University of Minnesota from 1858 to 1861. When the war between the States broke out, he became a hospital chaplain, the duties of which he performed until the close of the contest. From 1864 to 1869, he was the Secretary of the President of the United States for signing land patents. In 1869 and 1870, he held the position of Consul at Dublin. He was subsequently President of Macalester College at Minneapolis, in which institution he occupied at a later date the position of Professor of History Literature and Political Economy. He was also rector of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. Dr. Neill was the author of several historical works, including English Colonization of America, Founders of Maryland, the History of the London Company, Virginia Vetusta and Virginia Carolorum. These works contain a large amount of valuable gleanings. The comments of the author are, for the most part, rendered worthless by numerous inaccuracies and by a spirit which finds a malignant pleasure in looking only for faults and blots, a disposition which not unjustly exposed him to the charge of being a historical scavenger. His books are devoid of method and are lacking in literary merit, and but for the valuable historical papers, which they contain, would, from the beginning, have been consigned to the oblivion which, in other respects, they deserve.

HAMILTON FISH, of New York, was a member of a Knickerbocker family of distinction, his immediate ancestor having played a part of prominence in the war of the Revolution. He was born in the city of New York, August 3d, 1808. At the age of nineteen, he graduated at Columbia College, and three years later was admitted to the bar. The first public office which he filled was a Commissionership of deeds. Beginning his political life as an earnest advocate of the principles of the *Whig* party, he offered himself in 1834—four years after he had entered upon the practice of his profession, as a candidate for the position of representative in the State Assembly on the *Whig* ticket, but was defeated. In 1842, he became the *Whig* candidate for Congress in the Sixth District, and was elected. Defeated four years subsequently for the Lieutenant Governorship of the State in a popular elec-

tion, he was advanced to the position when Mr. Gardiner, the successful candidate, resigned. In 1848, Mr. Fish was elected Governor of New York, and in 1861, was sent to the United States Senate. While a member of that body he acted with the Republican party, being strongly opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. In the campaign of 1860, he was a warm supporter of Mr. Lincoln. Called to the cabinet of Gen. U. S. Grant, he served as Secretary of State through both terms of that President, and was one of the Commissioners who, in 1871, negotiated the treaty of Washington. Mr. Fish was at one time, President of the New York Historical Society, and was President-General of the New York Society of the Cincinnati. He was also a life member of the Virginia Historical Society.

FRANCIS PARKMAN was born in Boston, Massachusetts, September 16, 1823. He graduated at Harvard in 1844. After the completion of the academic course, he devoted himself to the study of law, with the intention of following that profession. Abandoning this plan in 1846, in that year he started for the West, with a view of exploring the Rocky Mountains, and making a personal study of Indian life. The results of his observation in the course of this expedition were embodied in a series of articles which were published first in the Knickerbocker Magazine, and were afterwards printed in book form. Mr. Parkman had now decided to give himself up to literary work, his mind having become deeply interested in the subject of the French colonies in North America. It was in order to acquire information on the different branches of this subject, that he visited France several times between the years 1858 and 1881, the French archives being thrown open to his examination by the French Government. Mr. Parkman had always had a great love of flowers, and so extensive was his knowledge of horticulture, that in 1871 he was appointed professor of that science in Harvard College. His life-work, however, was his history, which appeared in a series of volumes, of the French Power in North America, which is remarkable not only for accuracy and research, but for the brilliancy of its style. The series include California and Oregon Trail, Conspiracy of Pontiac, Pioneers of France in the New World, Jesuits in North America, Discovery of the Giant West, Old Regime in Canada, Count Fontenae and New France under Louis XIV, and Montcalm and Wolfe.

EDWARD Y. CANNON, of Richmond, Virginia, was born in Norfolk, Virginia, November 24th, 1824, but removed at an early age to Richmond, in which city the remainder of his life was passed. He attended the Baptist College in Richmond, and afterwards entered Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island, from which institution he graduated in 1845. Returning to Richmond, Mr. Cannon began the study of law in the office of Hon. James Lyons. He rose to a high position in